Last minute Christmas gift list SEE PAGE 3

EL CABALLERO

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL

VOLUME LXVIII | DECEMBER 20, 1985 | NUMBER 5

Tribute to Mr. Peterson

by Alice Wu and Danyal Payne

Over the Thanksgiving weekend Mr. Elmer Peterson passed away. Mr. Peterson has been a teacher at El Cerrito High School since 1969.

"It will be very hard to replace him both in and out of classrooms." This quote from his colleague Mr. William Tobin expresses the feeling of everyone who has come in contact with Mr. Elmer Peterson during the 16 years that he has taught at El Cerrito High School. The Cabby would like to pay tribute to Mr. Elmer Peterson who has been a good friend to both the teachers and students of ECHS. "Everyone was Pete's friend and he was a friend to everyone," says Tobin.

The fact that Mr. Peterson was also a good teacher is a common feeling among both teachers and students. He was "really nice, quiet, but willing to help you out any time, even if you came up with a question from another class."

"He always had time for students."

"Students often went to him for help on Science Fair projects and he gave it to them too."

These are just some of the quotes from teachers and students who knew Mr. Peterson and loved him.

Peterson was very devoted to his students. "He was always looking for something new to work on with his students. Kids were his main focus," says Principal Anna Blackman. He was responsible for opening the store in the back of his classroom where he would use the profits to make the industrial arts a more exciting subject. At the end of the

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Mr. Elmer Peterson will be missed.

Youths learn about drugs

by Andrew M. Kaplan

The Youth Educators have kicked off a new year of their program on drug prevention for seventh grade students.

The Youth Educators are a group of approximately 150 Bay Area juniors and seniors who go to seventh grade World History classes and help the students to make decisions about drug and alcohol abuse. The program has been in effect for four years, and this is the second year that El Cerrito has taken part.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

In previous years, the program was contained within Contra Costa County. This year, schools from Alameda and San Francisco are also taking part. El Cerrito is the only school from RUSD that is participating.

The program has Youth Educators go to a 7th grade History class one day a week for seven weeks, after the Educators have prepared for 7 weeks. The Educators present facts about drug and alcohol abuse, answer questions, and help the students find their own values and make their own decisions about drug and alcohol abuse. They present alternatives and give help as to how to deal with peer pressure. The Educators, according to sponsor Shirley Palmer, the Educators learn methods of teaching, self-understanding, group processes, etc.

The Youth Educators are all juniors and seniors, because "freshmen and sophomores are not far enough removed from the junior high schools", says Palmer. Students were solicited from El Cerrito History classes. They went through a screening process so that they ended up being a group of "people who are willing to make a commitment". The final group of approximately 20 Educators will represent a "cross-section" of students.

The Educators try to present facts and help the 7th graders get the understanding to make their own decisions. "We don't preach," says second-year Educator Indra Coles.

Palmer feels that "it's better to prevent drug and alcohol abuse before it starts" rather than try to control the problem after the fact.

Thespians-Forensics host dinner

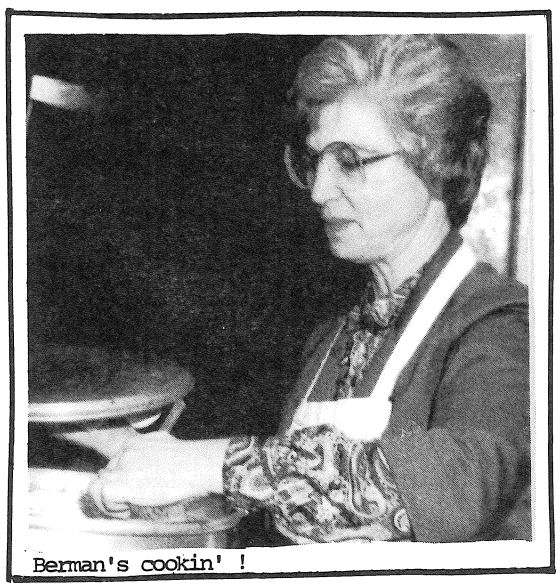
by Thomas Donaghey

On Friday, December 13, around 100 people attended a spaghetti dinner and variety show fundraiser hosted by the Thespian and Forensics troupes of El Cerrito High School.

The dinner and show were a joint venture of the two clubs, and the profits were shared equally between the two organizations. The spaghetti dinner concept had been used before by the Forensics team preceding many drama productions, but this was the first time the Thespians had put on a show in coordination with the dinner.

The first part of the evening was the dinner, consisting of spaghetti with Forensics coach Mrs. Berman's homemade sauce, green salad, garlic bread, beverages and desserts contributed by parents. The dinner took place from 6:00 to 7:30 in the school cafeteria. The whole dinner, except the sauce, was prepared and served by the ECHS cafeteria workers and Forensics team volunteers.

The second part of the evening was the Thespian variety show. This began at 8:00 in the Little Theater. Members of the Thespian troupe presented musical numbers, monologues, and skits. The program's pieces ranged from the song "I Don't Want to Grow Up" to a British sketch "Controversy" to a scene in Neil Simon's play "Barefoot in the Park." The variety show lasted about half an hour.



Berman's cookin' !

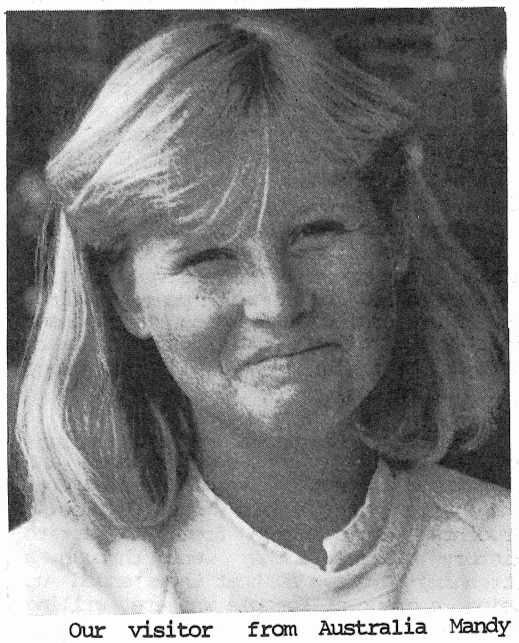
Australian says good-bye

by Mandy Reddick

G'day!

For those of you who never met me, I was your Aussie exchange student from January '85 to December '85. For those of you whom I did meet, thank you for your friendship and for making me feel welcome. During my stay here, I have been asked many questions so I'd like to answer some of them now.

Australia is a large country, approximately the same size as the U.S. mainland, yet our population (15 million) is less than that of California. Seventy five percent of us however, live in city areas which makes the outback very barren. Yes! We do speak English and we are a separate nation like the U.S.



Our visitor from Australia Mandy Reddick

Why did I come to El Cerrito out of all the places in the world? Actually, my choice was to go to Scandinavia to learn a new language. But since my home town Chelsea and El Cerrito are sister cities I was asked to come here on a special direct exchange program. I still got to learn a new language though. Instead of "g'day mate, how ya going?", it was "Hey man, whats up dude?" and instead of "raging pahty", it was "boomin' paarrrty". And not to forget "I'm like totally psyched, man".

School here was a very different experience. Both systems begin in kindergarten and then go on to elementary school, or primary school in Australia. But the seventh through the twelfth grades are spent in the same school and there are about 800 to 1000 students enrolled. Since I went to a very small school, 47 in my senior class, ECHS and about 400 in the senior class was a bit of a culture shock. Our high school work does tend to be harder, especially in the senior year. If a student gets that far, he will need to do at least four hours of studying a night (except Friday and Saturday nights of course) which includes half of Saturday and all of Sunday. Also to get into an university it is necessary to do well on the three hour exams at the end of the year. After high school, unless a student tries to get an Arts degree, he would go staight to one of the chosen professional training schools. For example, there is no pre-med, only medical school.

It was hard to start in such a large school only knowing one person (a fellow exchange student) and many things did throw me, such as the school police, mixed classes, no windows, and an obvious lack of students at lunch time.

However, there were fun experiences I will never forget... Senior Ditch Day, senior ball (which was different from ours), and graduation. Also, having summer holidays in wintertime, traveling and seeing this beautiful country (well, three states anyway), and returning for my third time as a senior. Paying tax on top of the shown price, no milk bars, your strange football, gridiron, compared to Aussie rules. My first Halloween, Thanksgiving, and taste of Mexican food. Homecoming and three host families, one of which spoke Spanish. All the liitle differences I will never forget, especially the many new friendships.

I would like to finish by quoting the last verse of a song we Aussies made up whilest on tour. "When we get together we think of all the things we miss, all the little differences which add up to so much. But it's fun and it's a challenge and it helps to keep our spirits up. The more we learn from you, the more you learn from us.

Goodbye (not forever), have a good one, and thanks once again to my new friends, both teachers and students. If you are ever down under, ("Australia will keep the America's Cup!") please look me up:

Mandy Reddick
7 Swallow Court
Patterson Lakes, Melbourne, Vic. 3197.
Australia

I will miss you all!

X-mas spirit abundant at EC

by Debra Lowe

With Christmas drawing nearer, our holiday spirit becomes more apparent every day. We decorate our Christmas trees, put up our stockings, hang mistletoe, etc., but holiday spirit is not only seen at home, it can be seen in our school, too.

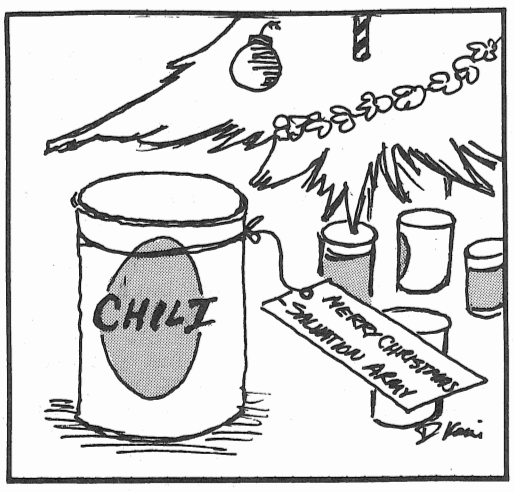
Students lined up yesterday to tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas. Many also got their pictures taken with Santa to keep as a memory of their Christmas at ECHS. Santa's elves were also there to help him.

During the past couple of days, many students on campus could be seen carrying candy canes bought during the Senior Class' Candy Cane Sale, but most students hid them when they were in class so as not to get scolded for having food in the classroom.

The music groups at ECHS shared their holiday spirit with the rest of the school. The Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, Choir, and Orchestra all had their Christmas concerts this month. They shared their music and made a little money for their groups--all had a good time.

Our good spirits also spilled over to help others. Cardboard boxes were placed in every second period class to collect canned goods. After this canned food drive, ECHS was able to donate several boxes of canned foods to the Salvation Army.

The holiday spirit at ECHS has been bountiful and fun for everyone.



Minor sports face money problems

by Darren Kani

Each year, minor sports at ECHS run into a common predicament: financial difficulity. The district does not fund any minor sports and leaves them to find alternate sources of money.

Sports at ECHS are divided into two categories: minor and major. The major sports consist of football, men and women's basketball, and men's baseball. The minor sports are the sports with "fewer members," such as swimming, wrestling, cross country, soccer, etc. Until around 1980-1982, most sports, both major and minor, were funded. Then, the district decided to cut off money to the minor sports.

The money needed to fund the minor sports goes to payment for the coaches, equipment, and other neccessities. The students pay for their own uniforms.

What have some of the minor sports been doing to cope with this problem? The cross-country team recently held a fund-run at Point Isabel and have sold carnations and have asked for contributions . The soccer team is doing simular things, including a carnation sale, parental contributions, and a possible candy sale. The different minor sports teams are coming up with different ways to raise money.

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OPINION

Interracial dating: whose right to decide

name withheld by request

Recently, my mother and I have been involved in a dispute concerning whether or not I can date interacially. Upon asking her whether she'd approve, she responded, "no"; and when I asked why, she gave me the answer that I "do not have the right" to decide who I will go out with if she feels it is inappropriate. It is unfair for a parent to put a restriction like this on a seventeen-year-old senior (who has already begun dating).

Why should I not be allowed to date someone of another race? If we share common interests and/or goals, there is no more reason for me not to date someone of a different race than to date someone of my own race. If I am not going to allow race to interfere with my relationships, then why should my mother?

In the course of my high school career, I have attended both a school composed of almost completely one race as well as El Cerrito which contains a very diverse group of people, and in having seen both types, I have noticed barriers that some people erect against one another in the guise of age, race, religion, etc. I find these barriers offensive and because of that, I wish to be free of any prejudice feelings. But how can I get rid of my prejudices if those of my parent restrain me?

I am willing to accept my mother's right to having her own views so now it's time for her to accept that I, too, have a right to my own ideas.

Cheating hurts everyone

by Dmitri Mehlhorn

After a grueling Chem test, and the hope that I had done well, no sight was more unwelcome than that of a fifth period student with a copy of the test in his hands. Yet such a sight greeted me only a short while after I took the test first period.

I'm sure everyone reading this article is familiar with the many moral reasons for not giving away or copying answers. All the bad things your parents and straight friends have told you about cheating still stand, and maybe you should listen to their arguments. If you cheat or allow cheating, you are personally promoting ignorance in the schools and harder tests. After all, if a teacher sees too many perfect scores, he will feel obligated to make the tests more difficult.

There are, however, immediate ramifications if you allow someone to cheat from your test. For every test problem you give away to a person taking

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

the later tests, you are lowering your own grade in many classes, of which Mr. Tobin's is one. It's not that all who cheat will be caught; it's no sophisticated spying system. It's much simpler than that. If you get an 18 out of 20 on a test first period, but the fifth and sixth periods all have perfect scores, you still won't get an 'A'. You may even miss a "B"! Mr. Tobin, like many other teachers, grades his students in relation to his other students. If one student misses only one problem and the rest don't miss any, the student who missed only one would fail the test. And Tobin, seeing all of these perfect scores, would make the tests much harder!

And the danger exists not only for those who give away answers. If you see someone else giving away answers and you don't hassle the kids about it, you are passively watching your grade drop. And the harms of cheating don't stop there. The cheaters themselves risk getting caught. The teachers aren't as unaware as you think. You're not that clever. Tobin caught five cheaters on his last test, and he plans to hit harder in the future.

This doesn't just deal with one class, but is a problem that spans the entire school, and each teacher has a different way of making the students suffer for it. When you look at how you're hurting yourself, and how you're hurting your fellow students, doesn't it seem easier tc just study?

Let's help, not ignore

by Charan Johl

In the last edition, an article appeared that had "Adults have yet to realize that we are not all stoners, alcoholics, and deliquents" standing out in large print.

The thesis of this article was that since adults unfairly stereotype teenagers, we must become something or "make better lives for ourselves" to show them that this generalization doesn't apply to us all.

First of all the entire premise that many adults think we're stoners and alcoholics is totally incorrect and unfair.

The author of the article wrote that most adults, "seem to blame teenagers in general for the mistakes of a much smaller number." And that, "adults are exposed to far too much propaganda against teenagers, mostly through the media."

But adults don't blame teenagers in general. I talked to a few adults and they don't seem to have this idea . They said they felt the number of teenagers that drink and that take drugs is, as the article itself notes, a small number. And that they don't blame all teenagers for the mistakes of these few, but that they do feel that these kids do need serious help.

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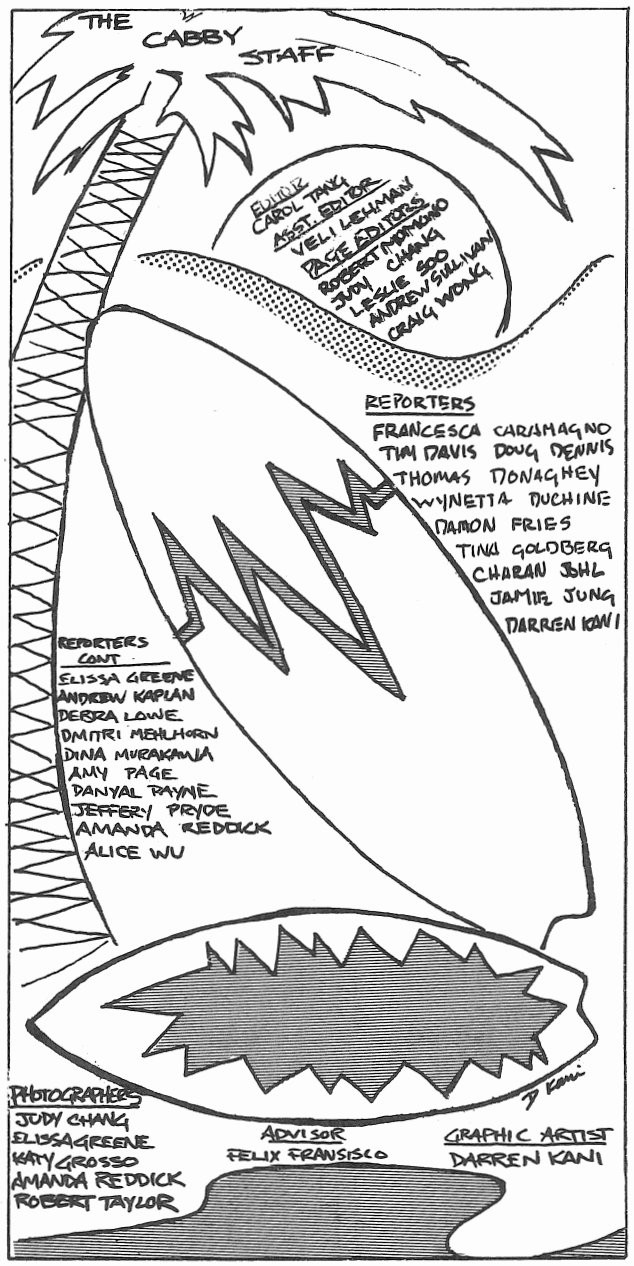
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This leads into a second point that was made that "We have to show those adults that shun adolescents that those of us who are determined can make better lives for ourselves."

But this isn't the action we need to take. What we need to do is counsel those teenagers that do take drugs and drink, and help them stop these indulgences. We need to reduce the problem, not show adults that there isn't a problem. There is a problem and it needs to be solved.

Secondly, we need to assume the responsibility of our generation's actions, not deny them. If adults do blame us for other teenager's actions, we should show them that we're competent enough to deal with this problem. Only in this way will we "make better lives" for everyone.

Out on the town

by Judy Chang and Carol Tang

Christmas is just a few days away, and for those of you who have not bought any presents yet, here is our A through Z guide of unique gift ideas. Most can be found in Berkeley.

Animal slippers (around $20) available as claws, zebras, bears, and for vegetarians they also come as fruits and vegetables

Betty Boop paraphernalia ($2 and up) includes dolls, tins, vases, and cookie jars

Compact stationery kits ($19.85) enclosed in a colorful case are scissors, water glue, tape measure, ruler, razor, tape, and stapler

Demitasse Mini-stapler ($3.99) comes in a variety of colors and can easily fit in purse or pouch

Emergency ties ($1.50) thin plastic ties in black, white, neon, or stripes that fold to fit into any pocket

Folding head chairs ($7.00) red or blue canvass headrest that folds up like a director's chair

Godzilla "Sparkies" ($4.50) creatures dressed up as ponpom girls, Playboy bunnies, and brides of Godzilla that spew fire when rolled

Halley's Comet balls ($2.99) rubber balls in different colors and patterns attached to a tangle-free tail of foil streamers

Inflatables ($2.75 and up) everything from small globes to penguins to 4 feet tall green palm trees with coconuts

Jacks ($5.00) plastic babies come in a baby bottle complete with rubber ball and instructions for the 80's version of the game of jacks

Keychains ($9.95) responds by beeping when whistled for so keys cannot be lost

Lightening rod lamps ($10) 18 inch long tube in yellow, pink, red, or purple that lights up when plugged in

Musical toothbrushes ($9.95) plays music while brushing teeth; comes with three inter-changeable colored brushes

Neon-style signs ($10 to $24) brightly colored designs of lips, flamingos, or palm trees, and slogans like Rock and Roll, Coke and California

Original plastic Slinkies ($3.25) springy toy with different colorings on each side; metal Slinky Jr.'s also available ($1.50)

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Potato Head kits ($2.50) includes all essential parts for a Mr. Potato Head except the head (use a potato or piece of fruit)

Queer pets (6 for $.60) anatomically correct small black plastic ants

Radios ($15.00) stands upright and shaped like a bottle of Budweiser beer

Sushi earrings ($6.00) a pair of dangling tuna, cucumber, or california roll designs

Tiered Organizer Boxes ($12) a revolving round container in a choice of colors with 4 layers of compartments

Unique people earrings ($4 each) sold singly, not one matching pair of ethnic-looking people earrings

Various pens (prices vary) felt tips to ball points available in a variety of colors, patterns, shapes, and designs

Wallets ($5.50) transparent credit card holder and pockets except for the floating bits of glitter

X-rated fortune cookies ($3.99) in Chinese food take-out boxes; also available with messages of trivia and Jewish sayings

Yellow Post-it's ($1.25) slogans, sayings, and designs on message notes that stick anywhere

Zippy the Pinhead dolls ($15.99) stuffed likeness of Zippy complete with red and yellow polkadotted shirt

Guest Writer: My buddy

by Scott Furuta

One day when I was a small kid, about four or five years old I'd say, I went shopping with my mother. While we were walking through a children's store, she decided to get my little brother a teddy bear. I immediately became infatuated with it. Later, on the way home in the car, I kept taking the bear out of the bag and looking at it. "You giving this to him, Mommy?"

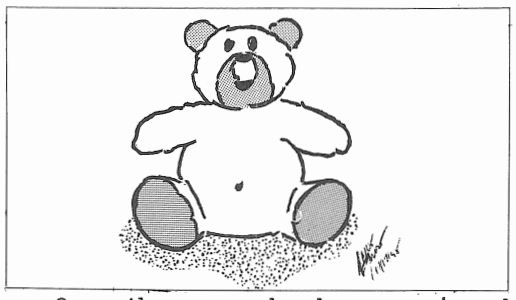
"Uh-huh."

When we got home, my mother put the bear in my sleeping brother's crib and left. Slowly, so that I wouldn't disturb anything, I tip-toed into the room, reached into the crib, and plucked the teddy bear away, shuffling silently out of the door.

I still have the teddy bear. He's a little beat up now, but he looks pretty much the same. He's like a little person--he ages along with me. When I first got him, he was perfectly white, a tubby little terry cloth bear with a pear-shaped body and a big round head. His ears were bright red in front and stuck out from his head like coffee cup handles. He had big, floppy feet with red soles, and his legs splayed out as if he had been ice skating and fell on his rear end. Maybe it was his face that I liked so much. He had a button-sized pug nose and a little red, half-moon mouth that made him look like he was constantly panting. His eyes were brown and white felt and forever looked off slightly to his left. He was very young then.

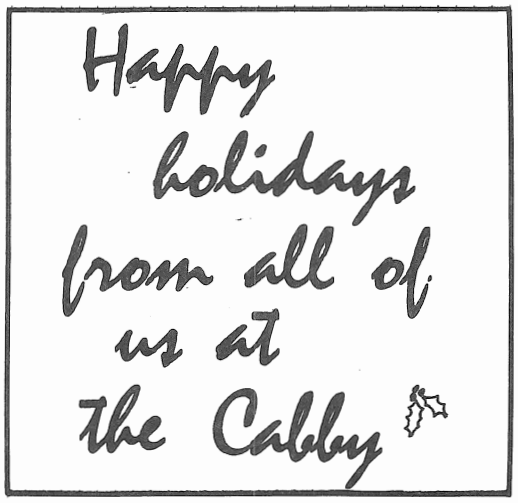
CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Since that day I stole him away from my brother, the bear has gotten a lot less white. He's a dingy gray color, and the bright red is flatter and the ears are slightly faded, but he still has the small brown nose. His left eye fell off once and glue surgery left him with a cataract so that his steady glance is slightly askew. His felt tongue is a bit shorter, too. He doesn't pant anymore; he looks pleasantly surprised. He's had leg surgery a few times--he has the stitches to prove it--and he has a wound in his right arm that's become a permanent leak.



Over the years, he has experienced life as I know it. He's gone camping, slept over at friends' houses, and to Disneyland, and seen most of California first hand. He's been thrown across rooms and rolled over in the middle of the night. He's fallen off beds and been squashed against walls, but he's never stopped smiling except for once, when his tongue came off and I had to put it back on. Once, my mother decided to wash him and put him in a bucket in the kitchen sink, but she forgot he was there and left him with his head mashed against his stomach for hours. For years after, he had a little red belly button.

When I look at him now, he reminds me of special things from my past. His battered little body has held up well for all of the years, even though his legs and arms are slightly floppy from being tugged on, and he still smiles despite the wounds he has endured. Lately, he's been sitting on my bed with a few other stuffed animals, looking over my room and keeping guard over my pillow. My mother sometimes asks me what I'm going to do with him and all the rest of my animals when I leave home for college. "I'm not going to do anything with him, Mom," I say. "He's coming with me."



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

by Robby Momono

When Cynthia Jackson and Karryl Smith graduated there was some question if the 1985-86 women's basketball team would survive. After all, both Jackson and Smith had been named to the RBAL "Dream Team" and accounted for a major part of the Gaucho offense . This year, Linda Schultz has been EC's dominant force and deserves to be in the El Caballero "Sports Spotlight."

The 5' 9" power forward doesn't feel any added pressure because of Cynthia and Karryl's absence. She feels that the key is that there is "more team play" rather than depending on individuals to carry the team. Yet the numbers she's rolled up would indicate that she's the same type of offensive weapon as the two graduates.

Schultz has already led the Gauchos to an impressive 4-1 record in non-league play including a third place finish at the Hogan Tournament. She's averaging 24 points and nearly 16 rebounds per game. She also scored a career-high 34 points in pounding Mt. Eden 56-12.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Linda Schultz (r) stops opponent.

No one expected Schultz to play so well not even Schultz herself. "I didn't expect to score so many points- its been a big surprise,"states the junior sensation. But she feels that her performance "could be better" because there's "always room for improvement."

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

That's exactly what she had in mind when she attended a basketball camp in the off-season. She felt that the competition was good and that it has helped her this year. Besides that, experience has helped greatly. Schultz has been a member of the varsity basketball team since her freshman year and she's gained plenty of experience in last year's North Coast Section playoffs.

Last year, EC fell one point and one game away from playing in the Oakland Coliseum. The Gauchos lost a heartbreaking 47-46 semi-final game to Bishop O'Dowd (who eventually went on to win the NCS Championship). Now with that playoff experience, Schultz is ready to go at it again. She'd like "to go to North Coast, do better, and go farther." She also feels that there is extra motivation to go back to the playoffs because the team had a "taste" of what its like to compete in the top competition. "We're ready to go farther- we want it more because we know what its like," concedes Schultz.

If Linda Schultz can continue to dominate on the opposition the Gauchos may get that "taste" of the Oakland Coliseum.

Coming up:

ELECTIVES EDITION

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOCCER

by Jeff Pryde

The ECHS varsity soccer team has had its ups and downs in early pre-season play. They beat St. Mary's High 3-2 but lost to Kennedy 2-0 and to San Lorenzo 3-2.

In the St. Mary's game senior Shawn Mitchell scored two goals and sophomore Jas Sikand scored one goal in their victory over the Panthers. Mitchell scored a goal in the games opening minutes but St. Mary's later tied the score at 1-1. Mitchell then scored again and Sikand added an insurance goal late in the first half to make the score 3-1. St. Mary's scored in the second half but was unable to come back.

In the Kennedy game, the Eagles scored in the first half and later added another goal to cushion their lead.

Sophomores Danny Smith and Darian Nash each scored in the Gaucho loss against San Lorenzo.

WRESTLING

By Jamie Jung

On Tuesday, December 10th, EC's top three heavyweight wrestlers scored in a losing effort against visiting Northgate 49-18.

Scoring the only points for the Gauchos were senior Derik Calhoun and juniors Dan Ward and Shawn Garrett. Calhoun pinned Mike Bilund in the first period and Ward came from behind to pin Garth Goodrich in the first period. Garrett pinned his opponent at the 3 minute mark of the second period.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

Gaucho co-captains Bryan Singleton and Josh Green lost to Northgate 11-3 and 10-5 in the 132-pound and 149 pound weight divisions respectively.

VOLLEYBALL

by Craig Wong

On Thursday, Dec. 5th, the El Cerrito High Girl's volleyball team hosted the 2nd annual two-on-two volleyball tournament. Tournament action was in the El Cerrito High gym, and play lasted from 3:30 to 5:00. 16 teams were entered, and then cut to four: the teams of Christy Lopez and Karen Horninger, Li Cho and Patty Osorio, Lucy Tallerico and Wyatt Huro, and Iggy Loyola and Ed Aw.

In the first semi-final, Loyola and Aw came from behind to defeat the team of Tallerico-Huro, 11-5. In the other bracket, Lopez and Horninger outplayed the team of Cho-Osorio to a 11-5 victory.

In the final, a year of experience proved to be the difference, as the combination of power and finess, backed by the teamwork aquired through the season was too much for the team of Loyola-Aw. Precise setting by Lopez, and strong hits by Horninger, along with good defense by both, allowed their overmatched opponents only two points in their 11-2 victory.

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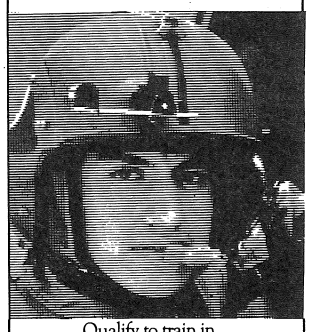

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ECHS opens SADD chapter

by Tina Goldberg

Concerned students have organized the first ever El Cerrito High chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD). The group, a division of the national network M.A.D.D.(Mothers Against Drunk Drivers), is designed to educate students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Charter members are President Elissa Sagle, Vice-president Michele Guard, and Secretary Lauren Strickland.

The main goal of SADD, according to Sagle, is to "educate students so they will think twice before they drink and drive."

Sagle first became interested in SADD while discussing drunk driving with a friend who is a judge. He suggested she start a chapter at El Cerrito High.

SADD was started three years ago by students at a Massachusettes high school. At that time, 8,000 teens died annually in drinking related traffic accidents nationwide. Since then, according to Sagle, the figure has risen to about 10,000 deaths.

According to Sagle, SADD is a group that uses "positive peer pressure."

In order to accomplish their goals, the club is planning a variety of activities. Ideas being considered include showing filmstrips in history and English classes, organizing a free ride program, and having a drinking and driving awareness week at prom time.

Sagle and Guard especially stressed the life contract. Signed both by teenagers and their parents, the contracts allow a teenager to call his parents at any time, no questions asked, for

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

transportation or advice. In return, the teenager agrees to talk about the situation later.

SADD does not advocate that teens stop drinking. Guard noted that the life contracts acknowledge the fact that students will drink. The main point of the contract is to send the message "don't drink and drive."

SADD plans to fund their activities by selling T-shirts and key chains designed in anti-drunk driving motifs. A possible potluck, dance, and flower sale are also being considered.

SADD is open to all El Cerrito High School students. According to Guard, "the more members, the better."

Meetings, announced in the morning, are usually held once a week during lunch in room 68.

SADD sponsor is science teacher Ms. Gosnell.

Minor sports CONTINUED

Earl Boles, administrative vice-principal, states that "If the district were to provide money to support more minor sports, the most likely would be wrestling and track." He also stated that he is planning to hold a meeting concerning the sports situation around mid-May, where he will explain the financial situation to current students, incoming students, and parents. This meeting will give them an idea of what's happening.

The meeting may bring out feasible solutions to the financial situation. For now, the problem is very small, but who knows? Sometime, the minor sports may run into major problems.

Crackdown on progress reports

by Andrew Sullivan

The parent of any student who receives a progress report next quarter will be notified by the automatic home caller whether the student returns the progress report to school or not.

Teachers will be required to place the names of all students who receive progress reports on scan-tron sheets similar to the attendance sheets. The sheet will then be run through a computer which will automatically begin calling the students homes with a recorded message concerning the distribution of progress reports.

The idea of utilizing the automatic home caller is all part of a plan to increase parental awareness. Not only is it a plan, but it's also the law.

According to the DBCP, the school is responsible to inform parents of any progress report that their child has received. "We're mandated to do this. We have no choice," stated ECHS Vice-Principal Shaw. He was also concerned that progress reports are losing their effectiveness, stating, "They're there to warn you."

"This is the best alternative that we have right now," continued Shaw. The alternatives being to require counselors to make personal calls to the students' homes (too time consuming) or sending the progress reports home by mail (too expensive).

Exchange day planned

by Dina Murakawa

This year, the ECHS leadership class is planning an Inter-School Exchange Day, in which five of the District's high schools will participate.

El Cerrito, De Anza, Pinole, Richmond, and Kennedy will take part in this innovative event, which will be held sometime in January.

The purpose of this event is to expose high school students to the way other high schools function. The representatives will observe the way other schools plan and carry out activities and report back.

As explained by Shannon Clutts, chairperson of the planning committee, "The main reason that we're doing this is to raise inter-school spirit." Tracy Dunn and Phoebe Schroeder, two other members on the committee, remarked that this activity "will help us know what people are doing in other schools and how they are planning their activities."

El Cerrito will have eight representatives, four of whom will be leadership students, and four of whom will be student body members, one from each class. Any student body member interested in participating should write a paragraph explaining why he/she would like to attend and return it to room 59. Each pair, consisting of one leadership member and one student body member, will go to one of the other schools on a day when the school has a planned student activity. El Cerrito's day has not yet been determined, but when decided, we will have guests from other schools come and observe.

The representatives will report back and collaborate on the activities they observed. Hopefully, their observations will help and contribute to El Cerrito's activities by enlarging ideas for them.

The leadership class was greatly enthused when participants of the All City Council Meeting, which was held in mid-November, expressed great interest towards the Inter-School project.

Peterson CONTINUED

year, he would take the most outstanding students in industrial arts to dinner at fancy restaurants.

Mr. Peterson has been battling with cancer for many years. As one teacher said, "He knew what he was battling against, but he never gave up. He still came back to teach." It is believed by many faculty members that by continuing to work at ECHS, he lengthened his life and made it more enjoyable. Mrs. Peterson believes that while Mr. Peterson was at school, he was energetic but upon leaving the school he was in a state of pain and misery. Blackman states that Mr. Peterson's doctor had not expected him to live as long as he did, but because he loved working with students, he enjoyed life longer than expected. "Working on the job kept him going since last May," says Mr. Schriber, a good friend of Mr. Peterson's.

To say that Mr. Peterson was a good teacher does not summarize all that he was. He was not only a dedicated teacher, but a great friend and a great person. As students, however, we should all remember what Mr. Tobin said. "He came back to school for you, just you students. I hope you know that."